

**Claims:**

1. System for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap (1) connected via at least one beverage line (3) to at least one coupling means (4) for a keg or other beverage container (5),  
5 said cleaning system comprising additional cleaning lines (8), a control unit (11) and at least one switching means (14) connected to the control unit (11) for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system,  
10 **characterized in that**  
the switching means (14) is designed as an electronic and/or a mechanical key switch so that the system is operable only by authorized personnel.
- 15 2. System according to claim 1, characterized in that  
the switching means (14) in the form of an electronic key switch is provided as a key pad or as a contact or contactless card reader or as a transponder.
- 20 3. System according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that  
the switching means (14) as a mechanical key switch is provided as a socket (15) with a detachable mechanical or electro-mechanical key.
- 25 4. System according to claim 3, characterized in that  
the key element of an electro-mechanical key (16) is a permanent magnet and the switching element assigned to the socket (15) is a magneto-reactive element, in particular a Hall-sensor.
- 30 5. System according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that  
the switching means (14) in connection with the control unit (11) is provided with a safety feature preventing removal of the key (16) from the socket (15) before the end of the cleaning sequence.
- 35 6. System for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap (1) connected via at least one beverage line (3) to at least one coupling means (4) for a keg or other beverage container (5),

said cleaning system comprising additional cleaning lines (8), a control unit (11) and at least one switching means (14) connected to the control unit (11) for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system,

5 preferably according to any one of the preceding claims,  
**characterized in that**

the switching means (14) is additionally provided with an optical status indicator (17).

10 7. System according to claim 6, characterized in that

the optical status indicator (17) is provided by lamps lighting up in different colours and/or in different intervals.

8. System according to claim 7, characterized in that

15 the optical status indicator (17) is provided by a transparent socket (15) illuminated from behind by lamps with light of different colour and/or in different intervals, wherein, preferably, the lamp or lamps are attached to or part of the socket (15).

20 9. System according to any one of the claims 6 to 8, characterized in that

the control unit (11) provides for a cleaning interval setting and/or calculation and the optical status indicator (17) is operable by the control unit (11) in an alerting mode indicating that cleaning of the beverage line system is due or overdue.

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10. System according to claim 9, characterized in that

the alerting mode is indicated by blinking of the optical status indicator (17) alternatingly in red and green.

30 11. System according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that

after insertion of the key (16) or other activation of the switching means (14) there is provided a preliminary interval where removal of the key (16) or deactivation of the switching means (14) will not start the cleaning cycle but will start a simple rinsing step with water.

12. System according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, irrespective of the location of the control unit (11), the switching means (14) is positioned next to the beverage tap (1).